

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT *ay*

THOMPSON *at*

LYONS *dh*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....January 22, 2007

Members Present.....Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Alan Thompson and Commissioner Howard Lyons

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

The Board met to open the Patrol Vehicle Repair Bids. No bids were received. Glenda advised the Board she has also prepared a Patrol Car Service Bid for legal notice and that bid opening will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. She suggested they extend this repair bid opening until that date which would allow her to notify potential vendors of both request for bids. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to extend the Patrol Vehicle Repair Bid until February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

In other business the Board met with Interim Environmental Health Director Morgan Farrell in regard to staffing issues. Also present was Board of Health Member Roger DeHaan. Morgan presented a memo showing the years of service for each member of the Environmental Health staff and their positions in regard to septic review, water monitoring, subdivision/public water supply/food inspections, etc. He also noted that their front line office staff, Rose Marie, will be retiring some time this year. Morgan also presented a memo with suggested staffing and cross-training, which he stated is important to their office. Morgan also stated it is important to keep their trained personnel, and in order to do that, it is important to offer salaries that match what is offered in other counties. He noted that two sanitarians have recently left because of pay.

He stated, when insufficient staffing hampers their ability to handle their foremost assignments, they disregard additional duties in the following order:

- Complaints, other than emergencies
- Public water inspections
- Septic inspections (will allow self-inspections)
- Inspections of public accommodations, pools, and trailer courts
- Subdivisions (as they can pass them on to DEQ)

Morgan stated they must continue performing the issuance of septic permits, site evaluations, food inspections, water monitoring and response to the public. He relayed if

they are not able to perform site evaluations due to their work load, they could contract this service out to a consultant.

Morgan indicated he is starting to fall short on completing the subdivision evaluations since he took over as interim director.

Roger stated he has seen this department grow from one full time sanitarian to eight staff members. He stated these jobs are a critical part of Ravalli County; in that a Sanitarian can 'turn a cow patch' into a subdivision, which has a ripple effect on the County, from environmental issues to emergency response, etc.

Discussion included budget issues, loss of the Rural School and PILT funding. Morgan indicated with the 'right staff and number of staff' they generate revenue for the county. And by not having the right staff and number of staff, they actually give up revenue.

Roger stated ground water monitoring is the one thing that allows a house to be built. He stated there are 'big implications' to the issue of ground water monitoring. In regard to contracting the site evaluations, Roger noted there are many qualified contractors who could perform the site evaluations. Morgan stated they are putting the pipes in the ground now and within the next month they will need to decide if they are going to contract this service out.

The county has received four applications for the Director position. The Commissioners agreed to review the budget in regard to staffing and agreed to review a proposal for contracting out the site evaluations.

In other matters the Board met for the following administrative matters:

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to grant final approval to the Thomas Subdivision, with the notation from the Planning Office that the condition for irrigation has been met. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to grant final approval to the Skysong Farm Subdivision. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the following Resolutions for Budget Transfers within Fiscal Year 2007:

- Resolution No. 2024 which is a budget transfer on county land information GIS
- Resolution No. 2025 which is a budget transfer within the Weed Department
- Resolution No. 2026 which is a budget transfer within the 9-1-1 Department
- Resolution No. 2027 which is a budget transfer within the County Attorney's Office

Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Due to budget resolutions that are in need of the department heads' signatures, Commissioner Thompson made a motion to continue this administrative meeting until tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to have the Chairman sign the FAA Reimbursement Request for the Snow Plow Equipment at the Airport. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

The Board discussed the use of the conference room for various organizations. Discussion included various political agendas, and the fact that the building is taxpayer owned. Use of government-related buildings for public use was also discussed. It was agreed to have Glenda review other counties' building use policies prior to making any decision.

In other business the Board met with Fair Manager Gary Wiley and Fair Board Members Win Smith and Les Linendoll. Numerous citizens were present for this discussion also.

Discussion included the recent Friday night 'Club Boxing' event that took place at the Event Pavilion Center. Win stated this was a very good event. He stated they had no major problems and expressed some dis-satisfaction in people's complaints about liability. For example; there is some liability over the Ferris wheel, should they cancel that too?

The Commissioners called for public comment.

Dean and Cheryl Walrod have been involved in amateur boxing. Dean stated Club Boxing is a dangerous sport, and currently there is a Missoula lawsuit pending against Club Boxing, the Wilma and the State of Montana. He stated they do not need this type of 'entertainment' with scantily-clad women picking up money. It is not a matter of if someone will get hurt; it is a matter of when. He also asked about the liquor at the fairgrounds.

Gary stated the catering was done with insurance policies in place. He said the citizens purchased the Fairgrounds in 1913 and the deed does not show any covenants. In 1975 the Commissioners added an ordinance forbidding alcohol on any County property. In 1999 the ordinance was repealed with a new ordinance allowing alcohol at the Convention Center; but not within 2 weeks before or after the Fair. He stated Club Boxing also occurs in Bozeman, Great Falls and Billings. In Missoula there is no ordinance against Club Boxing. Gary said at the Ravalli County event, the agent for Club Boxing showed good diligence in regard to the health and safety of the boxer as they stop any fight if they think the fighter is in trouble. He visited with other cities and they have no problems. Gary stated the Club Boxing rules are very stringent.

Dean stated the rules for amateur boxers are much more stringent. He indicated allowing 'kids' to come in off the street with no experience and no conditioning is very foolish as someone will end up getting hurt.

Cheryl stated she is aware of other cities that have Club Boxing, but they have no amateur boxing because of funding. She stated both she and Dean obtain their own funding in Ravalli County. Currently, they have a lot of backing, support and respect from County residents. She said both she and Dean have been involved in this sport for 36 years. Amateur boxing gives the kids something to do, other than be on the street. Her concern is the injuries the kids could receive when they have not had any training. She stated many of the Club Boxing participants vomit afterward, which means they have a concussion, and they are not advised to avoid aspirin if they have a headache. She stated that concerns her greatly because the use of aspirins after a fight can cause an aneurysm. She stated some of the Club Boxing participants do not know these things. She said Club Boxing makes a 'mockery' of boxing. Injuries occur with training. She felt this is 'legalized bar room brawl'.

Dean stated USA Boxing paid over a million dollars to the boxer who was hurt in Missoula. Dean also asked if the caterer is licensed. Gary stated they had a \$1,000,000 liability for the boxing and the caterer. He added Western States Insurance provided the Club Boxing insurance.

Cheryl stated the reason the insurance is so high for amateur boxing in Hamilton is because of the injuries. Boxing is no longer part of high school sports because it is high risk. With no training, she stated injury and insurance issues are important to review.

Commissioner Chilcott stated amateur boxing is for kids, but Club Boxing is for those 18 years and older. Cheryl stated their amateur boxing is 18-35. She also stated Nate Riley, the boxer who was hurt in Missoula at the Wilma, has not collected any money from Club Boxing. She has visited with Nate personally. USA Boxing is a club-sanctioned event and they do have proper insurance.

Dallas Erickson stated some of the citizens present are concerned about allowing County property to be used for this type of event, with the use of liquor and scantily-clad women. This is county property and it should not be utilized for this type of event. The Wilma Theater is owned by the same man who owns the adult book store in Missoula. He felt the County should have a use policy for county property. He asked what prevents someone from having a mud wrestling event, which is like a 'sex show' with women wrestlers? He stated this is taxpayer property and there needs to be a line drawn on acceptable uses.

Dean stated Club Boxing has been outlawed in at least six states.

Harris Himes spoke in opposition to this use and also shared his concern for potential for brain damage injuries.

An audience member by the name of Dewey said Club Boxing is like a "powder keg" when you mix it with alcohol. He stated some girls in the audience got into an argument as did some of the men who had been drinking. He stated he will never attend another

Club Boxing event. It is not a matter of if, but when someone will get hurt. It is not a good mix for age and weight; and he saw no consideration for their lack of training.

Another female citizen, name unknown, stated the newspaper article glamorized this event. She stated she knew the kids from Stevensville; and they haven't boxed before. She was concerned about injuries. She felt all of these issues need to be taken into consideration before making this as a regular event. She stated she was unhappy with the use of the fairgrounds for such an event.

Winn asked how they decide what they can not do, such as ride Ferris wheels and ride bulls. He asked if they should also require the schools to discontinue high school football.

Commissioner Thompson asked Fred Thomas of Western States Insurance how the County is covered. Commissioner Thompson stated he has done many things, including boxing, in his life and recently he was hurt while skiing. He stated this was to be a good revenue maker at the Fairgrounds. Gary responded they did make a profit. Commissioner Thompson stated it is the Commissioners' responsibility is to review the insurance. He stated he was not aware of the 'ring girls' who were scantily clad and got into an argument, and that might be something the Commissioners want to review.

Fred stated he is related to the Club Boxing agent, Bob LeCoure and wanted to make that relationship known. However, as the Agent of Record for the county, he reviewed the insurance issues for both Club Boxing and the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds does have proper coverage as does Club Boxing. In regard to alcohol, MACo requires coverage for general liability from the vendor, contractual details and certificate of liability from the caterer. This event followed the policy of MACo. The County has insurance; as does the vendor and the caterer.

Dallas asked if a boxer is hurt and goes into a comma, would they covered? Fred stated it depends on what happened. He stated for a lot of the events: motor cross, animal events, etc., the participants might not be insured directly, as the general liability does not cover participation, which is why they sign a waiver. Fred stated he has attended the Club Boxing events in other cities and the Hamilton Pavilion is the best place to hold this type of event; as far as the facility itself. He felt the recent event at the Pavilion went well and the Fair Board did very well. The ring girls did have a problem but those are just problems we have in every day life.

Cheryl asked Fred if she would be covered 'if someone falls on her'. Fred stated it would depend on what actually happened; there are too many variables to make an overall statement. He stated it is not the obligation of the County to take on this liability.

Cheryl asked if \$1,000,000 is for each injury. Fred stated it is 'per occurrence'.

Dewey asked about the fights that occur in the parking lots. Fred stated outside the ring is an 'Intentional Act' and no insurance will respond to that. He stated there is no liability of the County in that regard and they would not become involved. Dewey said

there is a real potential for that to happen and the County will probably be named. Fred disagreed, but said everyone has the right to sue. He stated the incident in Missoula might be included in the lawsuit because the State licenses the Club Boxing, but he is unaware how this will turn out in regard to responsibility or liability.

Dean asked Fred what his involvement was in this, other than insurance. Fred stated one of his boys sold tickets, regulated tables, and one broke up the 'ring girls' fight. He has no financial stake in it, other than insurance.

Dean said when a person signs up for Club Boxing they lose the right to box as an amateur.

A citizen from the audience asked 'how old must you be to watch this'? Gary stated the women were not naked. Swimmers wear less clothing than the 'ring girls' did. In his opinion the ring girls were not a 'negative' to this event. There is no minimum age to attend the event but the children that he saw were with their parents. Gary stated they had continuous security and they continually look for any problems.

Norm Mitchell is opposed to the atmosphere created with alcohol and women. He felt better regulations from the County are needed. He referred to the statement that the event was a fund raiser for the County. Commissioner Chilcott said he meant to say 'revenue'.

Dewey stated there were 500 people in attendance. They were drinking, and fighting is the venue and people get 'all jacked up'. People around him were 'ready to go'. He felt this type of activity creates a security problem, and he 'guaranteed' the county they will end up having problems.

Sheriff Chris Hoffman declined to comment.

Cheryl said the community should know what kind of profits the Fairgrounds made on this event. She stated the Club Boxing promoter profits, and the community should know this.

Gary stated kids must be accompanied by an adult. In regard to fighting and alcohol; he has been managing the Fairgrounds for the last decade. Even at fair time, the young men fight over the young girls and there is no alcohol involved.

Commissioner Lyons stated when he heard about this, he did not think it was anything Ravalli County needed, but it is a fund raiser. No one is forced to attend. He has been involved in rodeos in the past and was injured. He stated rodeo participants have the potential to get hurt; how far should regulations go? He asked if everyone should remain home with 'pillows around themselves'?

Commissioner Thompson said the Commissioners should look at the atmosphere created. He enjoys boxing and watches it now. There are some hazards to the sport, but all sports have hazards. He stated he is not inclined to stop Club Boxing at this time.

Commissioner Chilcott stated Bob LeCoure was his first boxing coach and he also enjoys boxing. Mr. LeCoure is somewhat 'colorful person', who looked out for him and his friends. Club Boxing is not a boxing sport; rather it is a gladiator sport. He stated he shares Cheryl's concern for this type of boxing. However, the referee has been doing this since the 1970's. This type of event helps pay off the note to the First Interstate Bank for the construction of this Event Pavilion. He stated he does have some concerns for alcohol use. In regard to 'ring girls'; they utilized them as far back as the early 1970's. He also noted the amateurs fight at the Eagles Hall, which is part of a bar. He stated the Commissioners will review these public concerns with the Sheriff, Fair Board, etc. But it sounds like the event was handled very well.

Dean stated one of the Club Boxing participants held at least 50 amateur boxing bouts with his group; he beat his opponent very badly. He asked what they can do to screen this better.

Dallas said they need 'Fairground Use Policy', or a strip show could be held, which is not the will of the residents of this county.